

**Anna Quindlen and Dr. Steve Allen Jr.
Spark Friends of Bassett's Fall Luncheon Series.**

Cooperstown, N.Y....

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and columnist Anna Quindlen and Dr. Steve Allen Jr., son of comedy legends Steve Allen and Jayne Meadows, will entertain and inform guests at two patient education luncheons this fall. Hosted by the Friends of Bassett, both benefit events will take place at the famed Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown and are opened to the public.

On Friday, Sept. 10, the Second Annual Heart of the Matter Patient Education Luncheon will present Dr. Allen, a humorist and family physician, whose topic will be "Lightheartedness – A Personal Look at Humor and Health." Proceeds are designated toward the Bassett Heart Care Institute, which celebrated its first year of service to central New York in March. Before and after lunch, the staff of Bassett's Community Heart Program will conduct free healthy heart risk screenings. Appointments are required for screenings.

As lead sponsor, NBT Bank continues its support of the Heart of the Matter luncheon and accessible cardiac care in central New York. Event sponsors are The Tom Morgan Group at Smith-Barney, The New York Susquehanna & Western Railway and Wilber National Bank.

On Monday, Sept. 20, the Friends for Life Patient Education Luncheon presents the 10th Annual John E. Olson Lecture. Following in the tradition of distinguished Olson lecturers, Anna Quindlen will address "The Human Element in Health Care." Proceeds from the luncheon will benefit the Bassett Healthcare Regional Cancer Program. Event sponsors are Amgen, MedImmune Oncology, Inc., and Ortho-Biotec.

Honorary co-chairs of the CME-accredited event are Alice Holbrook and Sissy Thomas, daughters of philanthropist Louis Busch Hager for whom the Cancer Center at Bassett Hospital is named, and Susanna Hager, his daughter-in-law. As an incentive to sponsors, the Alice Busch Gronewaldt Foundation is matching the first \$15,000 of corporate support for the benefit.

Lunch will be served at noon for both events. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Tickets are \$60 each. Purchase two tickets for either event or one for each for \$100 and save \$20. Valet parking is available and special menus are available for guests with dietary concerns.

For ticket or sponsorship information on the Friends' Fall Luncheon Series, please call the Friends of Bassett office: 607.547.3928